



Allandale Neighbor

Oct 2021
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRUNK OR TREAT



**Oct 30, 4-6pm
NW Park**

**Live Music • Candy •
Potluck • Community**

ANA Social Committee Trunk-or-Treat!

Diana Wheeler

The ANA Social Committee is organizing a “Trunk-or-Treat” kid-friendly Halloween event on Saturday, October 30, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park. Everyone is welcome. Cars that are decorated and have trunks full of candy and other treats are highly encouraged, so kids can trick-or-treat.

Also enjoy:

- Live music from The Other Other Brothers (a local Austin duo that does sing-alongs for kids with entertaining jokes for adults)
- Photo booth

Potluck is encouraged, and we are seeking “grill master” neighbors to volunteer their time and talents at the grills to add to the feast. Donations accepted (\$3/each) ☼

SEE FLYER ON PAGE 16

The Pond at Northwest Park: An Opinion of Concern

As most of Allandale is aware, Austin Parks and Recreation Department has at long last undertaken a Vision project to improve and update Beverly Sheffield Northwest District Park (NWP). After several sessions with interested Allandale neighbors, both in-person and virtual, PARD has posted their Final DRAFT Vision at <https://www.austintexas.gov/sheffieldNWpark>.

The “high-level” plan addresses the recreational and open space components and is supposed to mesh with a Northwest Pool revitalization plan, a dry detention dam safety component, and a wastewater improvement element. Allandale

and others interested in the park have had opportunities to comment on the Park Vision and dam safety upgrade, including the vision for the pond.

This note will only focus on the issues related to the pond.

According to community input, there is consensus that the pond should remain, but needs improvement. Most agree that the pond is an iconic and much-beloved feature of Northwest Park, a focal point for quiet contemplation, nature observation, or putting a line in the water. It is a birding hotspot, with over 170 species observed in and around the pond’s wooded wetland! The wetland

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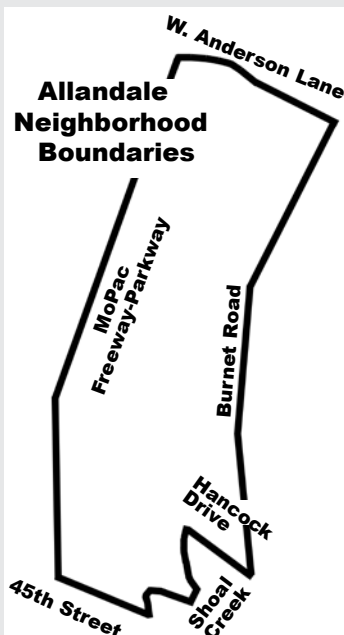
ANA Executive Committee meetings are held on the
first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center.
General Membership meetings are held in April and
October. (Meetings are currently held via Zoom)

Committees

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COMMUNICATIONS Sarah Torchin and
Kaylee Romantic
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President's Letter

Hans Magnusson, ANA President 512-522-8773 allandaleneighbor@gmail.com

Dear Allandale Neighbors: The annual ANA membership meeting held on October 6th elected a new board to serve for the next year. As the new president, I'm enthusiastic to work with five first-time and six seasoned board members. I thank the five outgoing board members for their service.

I want to give a shout-out to Sarah Torchin and Kaylee Romantic who have graciously agreed to invigorate our social media engagement. I'm optimistic that the pandemic is slowly abating and that we can resurrect activities that were dormant over the past year. I'm hopeful that like me, many of you are eager to get together and work on improving our Allandale community.

Several Allandale related city projects are already underway or will begin next year, including water and sewer infrastructure, a bike underpass beneath the intersection of Shoal Creek and 2222 and major improvements to Sheffield Northwest Park. The ANA board will continue to monitor and report on these projects in the newsletter and on social media.

One major goal for the coming year is to increase the membership. We want to hear ideas from new and current members what activities and services we can undertake to keep Allandale an inviting and vigorous neighborhood. ☘

The *Allandale Neighbor* is published and distributed bimonthly by the ANA. Contact our ad coordinator at 512-348-8237 or allandaleneighbor@gmail.com for more information.

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The Pond at Northwest Park: An Opinion of Concern

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

is a thriving habitat surrounded by trees, where five turtle species, including a snapping turtle, make their home.

In 1986, the pond took on its current configuration when Northwest Park was made into a dry detention pond. Bald cypress trees were planted on the circumference of the pond, two of which have attained 30- and 36-inch diameters. Their roots, including knees, have stabilized the bank. The cut limestone curb is no longer needed, and replacing it is too impactful to the tree roots.

Originally, the pond was part of the pool operation, as filter backflush water and pool draining were directed here. In today's world this is no longer allowable, so in the near future, pool operations will require the water to be released into wastewater facilities.

Other than rainfall and pool waste, the current pond receives no supplemental water. The actual watershed is about 10 acres, and of this, most is parking lot and ball court runoff, hardly sufficient during dry years and years of uneven/erratic rainfall. Water quality suffers, and increased nutrient inflows result in over-abundant aquatics (duckweed, an aquatic fern, and scum), which further reduces available dissolved oxygen. Since 1994 there have been six documented fish kills! Adding to the problem, sediment loads have made the pond shallower, which adversely affects water quality. September is an especially troublesome month for water quality. Most of the fish kills occur during this period.

The good news is that the pond can be revitalized with simple steps. At the same time, the trees can be protected and allowed to mature, turtles can live on, a limited fishing pond and birdlife can be preserved, and established wetlands can be protected. The pond needs supplemental water during dry periods and for water quality. In 1976, the City of Austin drilled a water well for just this purpose. It could be made operational.

Circulation and aeration could be accomplished by designing and building a waterfall feature in the pond's west wall near the old well bore. Pumping for aeration and cir-

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culation could be plumbed into the nearby new swimming pool pump house. By careful hydraulic dredging, a deeper pond could be realized and the potentially contaminated soil disposed of properly.

While the cost of this approach has not been determined, it is likely well under \$200K. Meanwhile, according to the city's consultant, HDR, PARD is promoting a \$1.9m project to convert our pond to a water-quality pond managed by the Watershed Protection Department. It is an incredibly impactful decision. Trees will be killed, fish, turtles, and birds banished, and wetlands destroyed. Is this a bigger and better pond?

The project timeline for a conversion to an ECM-compliant wet pond is 16 months.

Let's preserve our little "Walden" pond, but give it some air and an un-chlorinated drink every now and then, and continue to enjoy the ecological and spiritual services it provides.

Let PARD and Council hear your concerns. Let them know we want to protect but improve the existing pond wetland

habitat, and save bald cypress trees so they can mature and provide shade for centuries.

Tell them we don't want a conversion to an engineered water-quality wet pond where many bald cypresses will be destroyed in the conversion, and where new habitat will take decades to mature.

Contact:

Dist. 7 Councilperson: leslie.pool@austintexas.gov

PARD Director: kimberly.mcnealey@austintexas.gov

Project Manager: darcy.nuffer@austintexas.gov

Article contributors:

David Riskind: Ecologist and resident of Allandale (Green Acres) for four decades
Peggy Maceo: Tree advocate and Allandale resident since 1975

Mary Fero : Chair ANA Parks Committee and Allandale resident since 1988

Ranleigh Hirsh: Member ANA Parks Committee and Allandale resident for 15 years ☼

Bug Off!

Wizzie Brown

Yellowjackets and Hornets

Full can bring yellowjackets into areas that are more closely associated with humans. These small wasps usually feed on protein, but seek out sources of sugar in late summer and early fall. This can lead the wasps to areas of human habitation or parks to find garbage cans, recycling areas, or even sporting events or picnics for a sugar source.

Yellowjackets are small, about half an inch long, with yellow bodies with black markings. They create a paper-like nest out of chewed wood fiber. The nest is completely enclosed, except for a single opening for the wasps to enter. Nests can become fairly large in size, and may contain up to 20,000 adult wasps.

Hornets are a type of yellowjacket and often create nests in aerial locations, whereas yellowjackets are cavity or ground nesters. Nests are typically abandoned in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Selling In Allandale.


Being an Allandale resident, I know first-hand why this neighborhood is the best place to call home. Both of my children are proud Gullett alumni, and we love the sense of community this neighborhood brings. I am the founder and principal of Juice Real Estate and have lived and sold real estate in 78757 since 2003, establishing a reputation as a top agent in central and northwest Austin. If you are considering selling your home or just have a question about real estate, do not hesitate to reach out.

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. . .



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Bug Off!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

October or November, as next year's queens fly off to locate suitable overwintering locations. Abandoned nests typically decompose and are not used the following year.

Yellowjackets may be confused with honeybees or paper wasps. While yellowjackets are approximately the same size and color as honeybees, they do not have hairy bodies. Paper wasps are colored differently than yellowjackets, and make an open-faced paper nest.

Yellowjackets are beneficial insects, because they feed on other insects within the landscape, and can help to keep pest populations under control. If nests are not near human activity, they should be left alone.

If treatment is necessary, it is best -- and safer -- for nests to be treated by a pest management professional. Underground and cavity nests are best treated with an insecticidal dust sprinkled around the opening. Aerosol sprays may also be used, but tend not to be as effective as dusts. If wasps are foraging around garbage or recycling cans, make sure cans

have tightly fitting lids and are emptied on a regular basis. Garbage and recycling cans should be cleaned with soap and water periodically to remove buildup of debris.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at (512) 854-9600. ☼



Crowe's Nest Family Fall Festival

Patricia Friar

Whether you are a long time resident of Allandale or a new arrival, you may have heard of Dr. Diane Crowe. She is an award-winning, lifelong public educator with a passion for children, life sciences, and her menagerie of animals at Gullett Elementary. My son, now 30, was lucky enough to attend Gullett while Dr. Crowe was principal. I recall him learning along with his classmates how to care for the animals. As well as barnyard animals such as chickens and ducks, the school halls were lined with terrariums containing Texas reptiles and other creatures. There was a bee colony in the library, and bees flew in and out through a plexiglass tube to be observable by students.

Diane and her son, director Dave Williams, grew this science project into a full-blown Life Sciences Learning Center, aptly named Crowe's Nest Farm. The farm is located at 10300 Taylor Lane in Manor, Texas. For the past 38 years, this nonprofit has been open to families and

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Crowe's Nest Farm is licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Crowe's Nest Farm works with local organizations such as Wildlife Rescue, Inc., the Travis County Sheriff's livestock division, and local humane societies by taking in injured, orphaned, abused, neglected, and other non-releasable animals for care and sanctuary.

Visitors can visit and learn about over 150 farm animals and wildlife residents including bison and longhorn cattle herds, an ostrich, emus, llamas and alpacas, goats, sheep, giant African tortoises, Texas bobcats, coatimundis, ringtails, peacocks, pheasants, chickens, turkeys and many others.

Crowe's Nest Farm typically serves 40,000 school children from Central Texas visiting on field trips. In March, 2020, public schools put field trips on hold due

to Covid-19. To make it through these difficult times and care for the animals, Crowe's Nest Farm added fundraising campaigns, including a Go-Fund-Me and a Spring Family Farm Days fundraiser. These, along with the annual Fall Fest, have helped the farm get through this tough year, albeit with staffing cuts.

This year, Family Fall Fest runs every Saturday and Sunday in October, from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. It features a pumpkin patch, hayrides, horse rides, barrel train rides and games. The farm offers live milking demonstrations, a raptor show featuring Hooter the Owl, and a reptile show. A live band and giant bubbles are tucked into the fairytale themed gardens.

Hope to see you, some old friends, and new ones out on the farm in October!

Learn more about Crowe's Nest Farm at www.crowesnestfarm.org

Pre-purchase tickets on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/crowes-nest-farm-family-fall-festival-tickets-169686949233> ☼

Library Kitten Activates the Force of Community

Raye Ward

A true story of how four women, two husbands, a veterinarian, a nonprofit, a fire station, an abandoned mama cat, and a homeless man beat the odds and made a lot of people (and a kitten) happy.

I will never forget how helpless I felt when I saw those tiny black-and-white legs sticking out from under a generator at the North Village Branch library. Less than three inches from tail to toes, the tiny pink pads of the right leg were turned so they faced slightly upward. The left leg was jammed into a large metal gear. Reaching into the enclosure that surrounded the equipment and the trapped kitten, I could just touch his right leg. It moved.

Do firemen have better things to do than rescue kittens?

The month that followed taught me a great deal about our neighborhood. I

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Library Kitten Activates the Force of Community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

know – a kitten, such a small thing, and there are hundreds out there. But that day, the kitten was as big to me as if it had been an injured child.

I didn't know what to do or where to turn. First, I talked to a service representative from a nearby car dealership. He catapulted over the eight-foot wall and tried to pull the kitten out. It cried and Miguel stopped: "I don't want to hurt it." I finally called 911. Moments later, Engine 8 edged its way down the drive and out tumbled those heroes. They leaped over the wall and lifted the AC generator off the kitten, then gently picked up the partially paralyzed kitten and put him in the carrier, suggesting that he be taken to the vet. It was tiny, with legs that folded the wrong way. "Are you going to take it to the vet?" the fireman asked.

I put the kitten in its crate in my bathtub and called Wells Branch Pet and Bird, a vet clinic I remembered was sometimes open when no one else was. They gave me the day's last appointment. Dr. Carpino was covering the holiday when I brought the kitten in at 6:00 p.m. Examining the kitten, she pulled no punches. It wasn't able to urinate on its own. Its back legs were weak and paralyzed. There was the spectre of disease. It would, in her words, need a great deal of nursing care. Were we willing to do this? Was euthanasia a consideration?

Over the course of the afternoon, Carla Penny, Orfa Davis, Caroline Reynolds, and I formed a kitten SWAT team. Pulling a medical scholarship out her hat, Carla told us the kitten's vet bills would be covered up to \$500 by her nonprofit, Friends of the Austin Animal Center. Caroline and her husband Joe volunteered to foster the kitten. But we still didn't know what it would take.

We agreed to move forward, and Dr. Carpino scheduled time for us to bring the kitten back in for a week's stay. Caroline, always up for a challenge, was willing and ready to apply the physical therapy techniques Dr. Carpino showed us, and Orfa signed up to relieve Caroline several times a week, as well as to supply toys and special food. The two of them drove the kitten back and forth for vet visits. The first challenge: placing a warm cotton ball on his tiny bladder to teach him to urinate on his own.

"He can stand on his own!"

Miraculously, two weeks down the road, the kitten could stand on its own. Three weeks on, Dr. Carpino and Dr. Wadhvani at Wells Branch Pet and Bird cheered and danced a jig. Caroline called to report the kitten was climbing into the "big boy" litter box. It was time to look for a home. I made a flyer and a Facebook page, and began the outreach process. Carla reminded us that the Austin Animal Center could place the kitten, but they already had 300 homeless kittens and 200 cats to place. Enter the Allandale neighborhood discussion group, Allandale-neighborhood-austin@groups.io.

I sent out one appeal, then another, at a time when those pandemic pets were appearing non-essential. But who would have thought that Anne Province would see the post, recognize the kitten as similar to one recently lost by dear friends, and forward it to Vicki Totten and Stan Irving in Rockport. At the end of June, we sent the kitten, known then as Skittles, off to his new home in Rockport. Skittles is now called Cap'n Gus for his new seafaring life -- his parents are also sailors.

And that's not all

Back at the library, two other key figures in our saga were waiting for their time. Twigs, a year-old tuxedo cat and mother to Skittles, had stayed close to her one surviving kitten throughout his ordeal under the generator. She had watched as the fireman lifted him and as I loaded him into my car. In her young life, she had already been abandoned to starvation and fear, and I wondered what was going through her kitty-brain. Then there is a homeless veteran who has watched over the project, spend-

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ing his days reading in front of the library as he battles his own challenges. Recently, mama cat Twigs was also rescued, and Caroline & Joe Reynolds have given her a home.

Big and small successes: "I'm proud of you."

One of Caroline and Joe Reynolds' favorite sayings is, "You have got to take action." Leslie Currens, who is allergic to cats, volunteered at the outset to help feed Twigs, and returned after taking care of family obligations to pitch in and encourage. Carla Penny provided consulting and took care of the bulk of the medical expenses through Friends of the Austin Animal Center. Wells Branch Pet and Bird provided infinite kindness and care above and beyond the bill, and the critical encouragement that only medical professionals can give. And those firemen -- wow!

Austin is changing so fast it's hard to say what our city is or will become. Skittles and Twigs remind me of the importance of holding on to the essence of what a neighborhood is, that network of relationships, sometimes with strangers, that reminds us why we live here. Thank you, Allandale! ☼

Gullett Good News

Diane Hurtado

Gullett Elementary really is a school like no other place, and the Geckos are doing great things! With backpacks and masks on, students headed back to school in-person on August 17. The campus is once again bustling with activity. The administration and staff continue to work tirelessly to provide a safe environment for students while the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

Over the summer, Gullett gained a new assistant principal, Ms. Samantha Greenleaf, and a new principal, Ms. Tammy Thompson, at the start of the 2021-2022 year. We feel so fortunate to have both at our school!

The Gullet Carnival Trail will take place on Saturday, November 6, from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Be sure to check out Gullett's website, www.gullettgeckos.com, for more information and about purchasing tickets in the upcoming weeks.

School hours have shifted by a few minutes this year. The school day now begins at 7:40 a.m. Dismissal is at 3:00 p.m. for PK - 2nd grades, and 3:10 p.m. for 3rd - 5th grades.

Parent volunteers are such an integral part of our Gullett community. The school Grounds and Gardens team has done an amazing job of transforming many of our exterior spaces into outdoor learning areas. The "Lunchtime Liaison" parent volunteers are now able to lend a few extra hands to help teachers enjoy a duty-free lunch.

Gullett's partnership with their sister school, Padron Elementary, continues to blossom. During the 2020-2021 school year, Gullett fifth-graders conducted collection drives and stocked the clothing "Den" at Padron. During the 2021-2022 year, fifth-graders at both schools will have opportunities to learn more about each other and share experiences.

We can't wait for all of the amazing things to come during the 2021-2022 school year!

Upcoming Events:

October 11: Student Holiday - Parent/Teacher Conference Day

October 22: Picture Day

November 6: Gullett Carnival Trail, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

November 22-26: Thanksgiving holiday; no school ☼

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Quick Bites

Robert Mace

Along with the first blustery cool winds of fall comes the promise of sane temperatures for outdoor eating and an eerie October for our local restaurant scene. **Yeni's Fusion**, a new trailer at the **Aristocrat Lounge** (the former Poodle Dog), slings up Indonesian fare with a flare (Yeni is a gem). **Chicken Fried Austin**, **Austin Burger Company**, and **ATX Sliders** have opened ghost kitchens at Kitchen United. **Trudy's North Star** is back from the grave with a remodeled space and revamped menu with The Return of the Mexican Martini and Central Texas BBQ Frankensteined into several dishes. **Pflour Shop Bakery** from, you guessed it: Pflugerville, will soon be firing up their ovens at 7411 Burnet Road. Pflour is known for their cinnamon buns and cray-cray cakes. **Bird Bird Biscuit** appears close to opening at their cute little spot at 1401 West Koenig Lane ("Dammit," cursed The Bride as we drove by, "there goes our waistlines."). We also received word that **East Side Pies** will be back in the area at the old **Hey Cupcake!** location on Burnet Road. And Allandalers Michael Hodge and Grace McNamara are opening **DiscoverEats**, a delivery service catering to travelers, party hosts, and foodie ghouls.

No changes at the **5000 Burnet Trailer Park**, but there appears to have been a chainsaw massacre at **Kitchen United**. **Bubble House**, **Buffalo's Express**, **Fatburger**, **Hurricane Wings**, **Mulan Kitchen**, **Yalla Mediterranean**, and **Bao'd Up** all went belly up. I reported last issue that our **Luby's** had died and lived another day, but now appears to be on death's door due to, what else, the wooden-stake-to-the-heart of redevelopment. Luann's Platter may get splattered after all. There's been activity at ye olde **Yumilicious** location at The Village. Permits at the city tell me that this is turning into an **IVitamin**. Although not exactly a restaurant, it is a place to intravenously get vitamins and hydration. That sounds like a horror show to me (drink a glass of water and eat a handful of Flintstones chewables, fer cry eye!) but to each its hydrated own.

The Kudos Monster has been active the past bimester. *Eater Austin* named **Upper Crust Bakery** among their "Vital Breakfast Spots to Jumpstart Your Day in Austin." *Thrillist* listed **Hopdoddy Burger Bar** and **The Peached Tortilla** among the "14 Best Burger Joints in Austin," included **Neighbor Coffee & Friends** among their list of "New Austin Food Trucks to Try Right Now," and complimented *épicerie* and **Bidermann's Deli** for their soups. *CultureMap Austin* included **Bufalina Due** and **The Peached Tortilla** among its "9 Austin Neighborhood Restaurants That Feed Our Souls." *The Austin Chronicle* gave a nod toward the breakfast sandwiches at **Austin Diner** and **Nervous Charlie's**. Although summer is leaving us like Godzilla returning to Toyko Bay, *Austin Culturemap* hyped the truffled egg salad sandwich from *Local Foods*, pesche con prosciutto e burrata from **Andiamo Ristorante**, and the corn dumpplings from **Old Thousand** among their "10 Best Restaurants for Summer Bites."



A Halloween (all sugar) special from Pflour Shop Bakery (photo from Pflour's Facebook page).

Until next time, remember: treats, not tricks!

For links, color photos, and a review of Fat City, please visit www.austinwanderlist.com. ☘

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Local Foods

Robert Mace

Local Foods hails from Houston, where *Food & Wine* deemed it the best sandwich shop in the Bayou City, while many others have sung its praises. Having conquered Houston with four boutique stores, Local Foods is expanding to Austin, with a brick-n-mortar opening downtown and a pop-up open now in Allandale at the old Bonhomie location at 5350 Burnet Road.

The Bride and I found Local Foods top-to-bottom impressive. I tried one of their over-stuffed sandwiches, the “Crunchy” Chicken (oven roasted chicken breast, nut-seed crumble, crushed chips, tomato, house pickles, romaine, provolone, buttermilk ranch, pretzel bun + two sides; \$14), while the bride ordered one of their “soulful” salads, the Taco Salad (baby kale, romaine, house-made vegan “taco meat,” avocado, roasted cilantro-corn, tomato, marinated jicama, pickled onion, tortilla strips, kidney beans, pumpkin seed, and lime vinaigrette; \$14).

The Crunchy Chicken sandwich was a revelation, carefully designed, remarkably



The Crunchy Chicken Sandwich from Local Foods.

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delicious, and easily two meals. The pretzel bun is hollowed out and graced with the perfect balance of chew and release. Rather than fighting with the bun, each bite broke away from the pack like Lance Armstrong leaving the peloton after his third dose of EPO. The chicken glistened with juice and quality, while the various flavors danced on the tongue in graceful balance. The Bride was overjoyed that the kale in her salad was shredded and, similar to the sandwich, the portion was enormous. The vegan “taco meat” came on the side and was actually good (as well as ample; we saved about half for tacos later). The house-made chips were thin-and-crispy delicious with a sprinkling of Old Bay, and, for my second side, the potato salad was tasty and egg-heavy.

As the name suggests, Local Foods taps into local food providers, so the menu differs by location, although there are similarities (the Crunchy Chicken is a Houston fave). Unsurprisingly, the joint downtown, like the ones in Houston, will be fast casual. I say “unsurprisingly” because it’s difficult to imagine a sit-down, white-napkin restaurant focused on sandwiches, but Local Foods’ wares just might be able to pull it off.

Local Foods, 5350 Burnet Road, (512) 614-1212, <https://www.localfoodstexas.com/>, take-out and delivery with limited outdoor seating; full color review at www.austinwanderlist.com ☼



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AGES 5-6



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Real Estate Round-Up

Debbie Trominski

Have you ever noticed a neighbor's yard dug up and plumbing vans on the scene? Chances are, they are having some major work done. When Allandale was first developed, the pipes used to carry wastewater to the street utilized the prominent plumbing materials of the day. It turns out those materials were not suited for their intended purpose and, since the early 1970s, PVC has been the piping of choice.

Specifically in the underground length of pipe that goes from the home exterior to meet the city sewer tap, many homes were built with a material called Orangeburg. The name comes from Orangeburg, New York, where it was manufactured. This may seem odd to modern-day homeowners, but Orangeburg pipe is made from wood pulp and adhesive that is bound together by coal tar pitch. That seems precarious at best. Just the description doesn't sound watertight or durable against tree roots and being buried in the

soil for decades. Remarkably, some Orangeburg is still in place and doing its job for the time being. If you think you have Orangeburg, a good plumber can help you assess your plumbing infrastructure situation.

Orangeburg or not, comparing YTD sales through August 2020 to the YTD sales through August 2021 demonstrates that the Allandale market continues to be strong. According to the Austin Board of

Realtors, between these two time periods, 24% fewer homes have sold (due to the local inventory shortage), prices have surged by 19%, and the average days on market dropped by 50%. While the market is normalizing with more inventory becoming available, it is expected that prices will remain high and continue to climb, however at a less rapid pace than we saw in the wild first half of this year. ☼

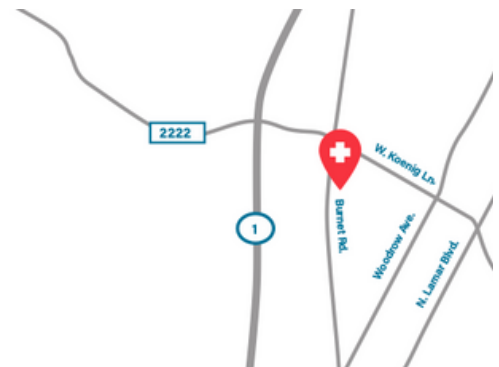
End of August 2020 v 2021

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Dena Houston

Fall Recycling

Fall is a great time in Austin! The temperature is no longer 100 degrees plus each day and there's an energizing coolness in the air. That coolness gets us back outside and away from our air-conditioned homes to work in the yard, visit with neighbors, or just enjoy the change of season.

What does fall have to do with recycling? In November, the leaves begin to fall. It is a great time to recycle those leaves, rather than send them to the landfill. Here are some ideas for leaf recycling:

Use shredded leaves as mulch

Shredded leaves make the best garden mulch! Many home lawnmowers and yard service mowers have a grass and leaf shredder. As the leaves break down, they add compost to the beds without having to buy bags of compost. Great fall reuse!

Start a compost pile

Even though we all have curbside composting, a backyard compost pile can

provide nutrient-enriched soil to our own garden beds. Composting can be easy and fun. See the following link for a home composting fact sheet: <https://www.austintexas.gov/homecompostguide>

What happens to the leaves we set out at the curb?

Plastic bags of leaves left at the curb are collected as trash, and the customer is charged \$9.60 + tax per bag.

Leaves placed in the green curbside compost collection bin, paper leaf bags, and our own garbage cans are collected by the City at no charge, and the contents become compost.

Leaves that lawn services collect are often put into plastic bags and carted off to the landfill. So much for Zero Waste!

Are there things we can do if we use a lawn service and they use the plastic bags that are sent to the landfill? YES! Ask your lawn service to use the paper bags and leave them at your curb for pickup. The argument can be made that this saves the lawn service the drive to the landfill and the cost to dump the leaves.

Question from a reader (and the answer): How do I recycle bottles of lotion and creams that I cannot clean out?

Bottles and tubes of lotions, shampoo, conditioner, etc., can go to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-off Center. These items (even if partially full) will go into their FREE reuse store. Many homeless people come to this store to get items they need. Any items that are not used are sent to their hazardous materials area and disposed of properly. If going to the RRDOC isn't an option, these bottles must go into your trash can.

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website: www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do

Stay tuned for future tips that will include creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to: recycling@hpwbana.org

Please remember: when in doubt, throw it out! ♻

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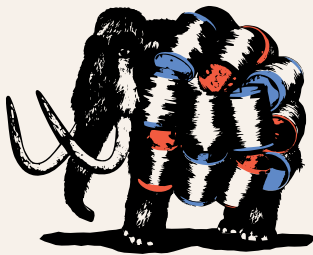
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